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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

AMMAN, TUESDAY DECEMBER 16, 1980 — SAFAR 9, 1401

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Today's Weather

It will be partly cloudy with scattered showers. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
Amman	6	13
Aqaba	9	21
Deserts	5	14
Jordan Valley	9	18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 20. Sunset Thursday: 4:52 p.m. Sunrise tomorrow: 6:31 a.m.

## Saudis hike oil price

\$2-a-barrel boost reported;  
rest of OPEC may follow suit

**BALI, Indonesia, Dec. 15 (Agencies) —** Saudi Arabia has agreed to raise the price of its crude oil, Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani

said here today. Though he would not disclose the amount of the increase, an industry weekly today reported the increase at \$2 a barrel.

Saudi Arabia has been charging \$30 a barrel, \$2 less than most of its fellow members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Sheikh Yamani told reporters the size of the increase would be announced after he had consulted other OPEC members.

But *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly* reported the \$2 figure today, saying the Saudi increase was retroactive to Nov. 1.

Conference sources earlier had speculated that Saudi Arabia might agree to increase its price of benchmark crude to \$32 a barrel,

if the other OPEC states did not increase theirs.

The Saudi minister said there would be "a broad agreement on prices... a loose one as we have seen since 1979."

"There will be many who won't increase (their prices)... they will stay at the same levels and others might go up," Sheikh Yamani added.

A surcharge on the OPEC price of \$32 a barrel for shipping and quality premiums puts the ceiling price at \$37 a barrel.

"It is not necessarily like this," Sheikh Yamani said when asked if the ceiling would be raised. "But you are not far wrong."

Signals from other oil ministers, such as Venezuela's Humberto Calderon-Fiori, indicated the key to a new price level would be Saudi Arabia agreeing to match the OPEC benchmark of \$32 a barrel.

A Saudi decision to raise its oil

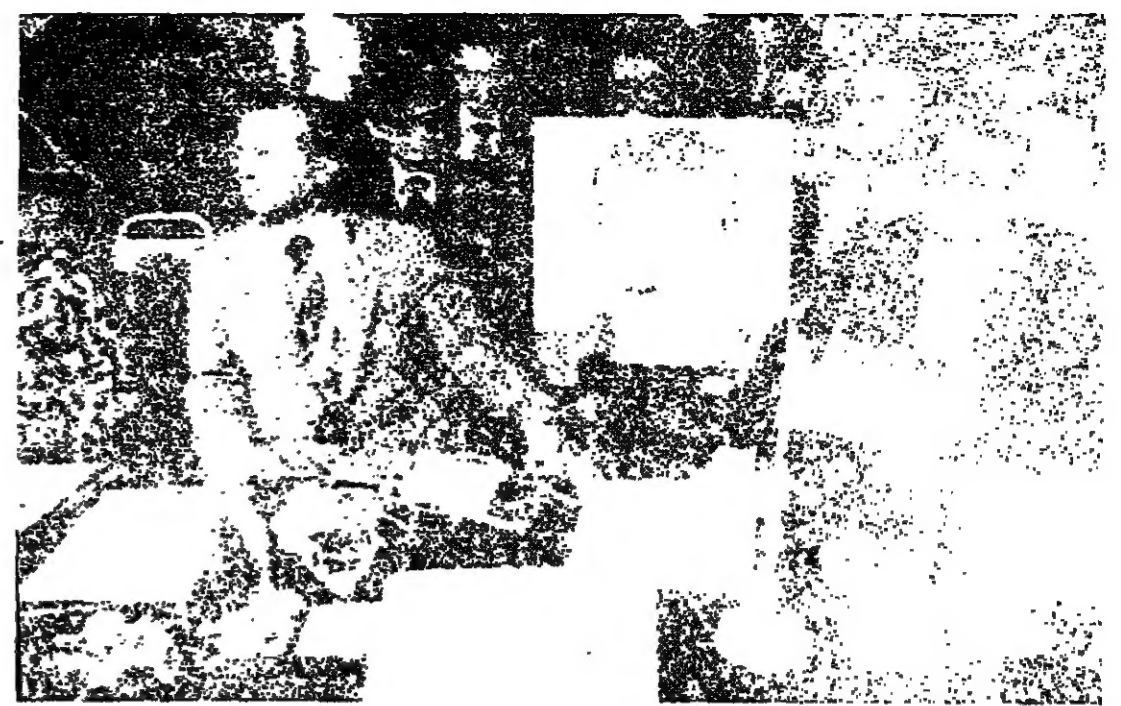
price is only the first stage in a bargaining process at the OPEC meeting, western oil experts said today.

The meeting was likely to agree a further relatively small rise by all OPEC nations to take effect early in 1981, the experts said.

The Saudi increase takes OPEC back towards a unified price structure for the first time in two years, they said. Although other nations priced their oil at up to \$37 a barrel, many of these premiums could be justified on grounds of oil quality.

The move by Saudi Arabia, by far the world's largest exporter, was an expected and logical one because its oil had been priced well below comparable crudes, the experts added. It has also long sought a return to a unified pricing structure.

Its increase paved the way for a uniform decision on raising OPEC prices in line with world inflation.



A picture of Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Jawad Tundguyan, an Iraqi prisoner of war,

occupies his chair at the OPEC conference in Bali. At left is Mr. Tundguyan's deputy, Hassan Sadat.

This might mean an increase in the average OPEC price from just over \$32 a barrel to \$34 or \$35 on Jan. 1 or slightly later.

A spokesman for Mobil Oil Corporation said the company's crude-oil traders had heard reports that the Saudis had raised the price by \$2 a barrel, but said Mobil could not confirm these reports, as it had not received written notification from the Saudi government.

Mobil is one of the four American oil companies involved in the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) which markets most Saudi oil. The other three are Exxon Corporation, Texaco and Standard Oil Company of California.

The Saudi announcement immediately overshadowed hostility between delegates from warring Iraq and Iran.

OPEC publicity spokesman Hamid Zaheri denied press reports that the Gulf conflict had extended to the Bali gathering, designed to demonstrate OPEC unity.

Rumours of sharp disputes between Iran and Iraq spread in the absence of reliable information from the conference, which is tightly sealed in the name of security.

Iraq had warned before coming that the Bali meeting would fail if it meddled in the war.

Iran propped a larger-than-life size photo of its oil minister, Mr.

Mohammad Jawad Tundguyan, in his otherwise vacant seat at today's opening session.

Mr. Tundguyan, was captured near the Iranian oil refining centre of Abadan on Oct. 31 by Iraqi forces who call him a prisoner of war. Iran insists he was kidnapped.

Conference sources quoted Mr. Mana Sa'id Oteibi, the United Arab Emirates' minister of petroleum and mineral resources, as saying a committee of five member states met today to ponder the Iraq-Iran question. But it made no recommendations to the full body, which reportedly decided by voice vote not to take up the issue separately.

## Gulf ceasefire still far away

**UT, Dec. 15 (AP) —** Iran and Iraq pressed war into its 85th day today in Iran's snow-drenched western highlands and rain-drenched plain, ignoring a ceasefire appeal from the oil producers.

Her side headed Indonesian President Soekarno's call for a standstill with which he opened a conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries which Iran and Iraq attended.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, made five mediation shuttles between Baghdad and Tehran on behalf of the 94-nation non-aligned group in the past nine weeks, told Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today the war was nowhere solution.

Iran said its paratroopers battled from trench to trench in the snows of the Zagros Mountain foothills around the closest highways from western Baghdad.

Ident Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr told a news conference in Tehran a counter-offensive was imminent as the Iraqis from all war-conquered Iranian

Iraq said it crushed a massive enemy counterattack in western Iran and pounded all four major cities of the southwestern Iranian province of Khuzestan with long-range artillery and helicopter gunships, claiming 96 Iranian deaths in the war's two major theatres.

Iranian communiques claimed 122 Iraqi deaths in the western front and in Khuzestan, conceding seven Iranian deaths in renewed Iraqi bombardment of the oil-refining city of Abadan, the Khuzestan capital of Ahwaz, the province's army garrison town of Dezful and the key highway town of Susangerd.

War claims are impossible to verify independently because reporters are barred from battlefield reporting. But western military analysts in the Middle East do not take Iran's talk of a counter-offensive too seriously. They believe weather conditions in winter would permit no major troop and tank gathering operations in Khuzestan's marshland as well as the freezing Zagros heights.

Despite the apparent military stalemate, peacemakers have been unable to talk the two warring nations to the negotiating table.

## Abuhatzaira drops his guard

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (R) —** An Israeli minister accused of bribery asked the Knesset today to lift his immunity from prosecution so that he might be tried in court.

Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abuhatzaira protesting his innocence, made the request to a Knesset committee that has been debating a request by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir for permission to prosecute the minister. He is charged with accepting about \$15,000 in bribes from persons connected with two religious schools that did not actually exist.

The committee is expected to approve Mr. Abuhatzaira's request and pass it on to the Knesset where it is expected to get final approval. The case will then move into the courts.

## Chad rebel leader reported ready to sign ceasefire

**Dec. 15 (Agencies) —** Chad defence minister Habre, leader of the Armed Forces (FAN) of the army of President Idriss Deby, has agreed to a ceasefire agreement, French sources said.

Sources said Mr. Habre was on his way to the capital, N'Djamena, to sign a document drawn up there on 18 by President Goukouni of the governments of Togo, Guinea and Benin.

He said diplomatic pressure from African leaders rather than military setbacks led Mr. Habre to agree to document he rejected just a few weeks ago.

Lome agreement was a out on the initiative of the President Gnassingbe under the auspices of

the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

It provided for a ceasefire in Chad and withdrawal of all forces involved in the battle for the capital, N'Djamena, to a distance of 100 kilometres.

The French sources said Mr. Habre crossed the Logone River, Chad's frontier with Cameroon, today and was apparently heading for the Togolese capital.

The Chad embassy in Paris issued a communique reporting the capture of the Koufra military camp in the centre of N'Djamena, held by the FAN since fighting broke out in Chad nine months ago.

Loss of the camp and the strategic town of Ati, east of the capital, would leave Mr. Habre's forces with only one stronghold — the eastern town of Abeche, close to the Sudanese border.

The French news agency AFP

reported today that Libyan-backed forces loyal to President Goukouni took full control of N'Djamena today and that Mr. Habre's forces had pulled out of the city.

An AFP report from Kousseri across the Chari River from N'Djamena in Cameroon, said the full of N'Djamena came a week after the opening of an offensive by Mr. Goukouni's forces, strongly backed by Libyan troops equipped with armoured vehicles and heavy artillery.

Before pulling out during last night, Mr. Habre's forces blew up the national radio station, their headquarters and munitions and food dumps. Large fires were seen from Kousseri, AFP said.

The FAN used to control about two-thirds of N'Djamena and a supply line running from the capital through Ati to Abeche. Mr. Habre's headquarters.

In Lome yesterday, however, Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdul Salam Tureiki denied that there were Libyan troops in Chad.

Mr. Tureiki told reporters: "The Chad government asked Libya for help and it is in this context that my country has given technical military assistance to the government of Goukouni Oueddei."

"Libya is not intervening in Chad... it has only responded positively to a request from a legitimate government."

He added: "There are no Libyan troops in Chad."

JANA reported today that Mr. Tureiki had completed a tour of several African states including Nigeria, Cameroon, the People's Republic of Congo and Zaïre.

JANA quoted the African leaders as expressing appreciation of Libya's efforts "to bring peace and stability to Chad." They said Atri-

can problems should only be resolved by Africans themselves, the agency added.

France, the former colonial power in Chad, warned the Libyan Jamahiriyyah over the weekend against military intervention in the Chad civil war.

Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi, apparently referring to France, has condemned what he called imperialist attempts to interfere in Chad. The Libyan news agency JANA reported today.

JANA said that Col. Qadhafi spoke to Algerian President Chadli Benjedid by telephone last night and that the two leaders had reaffirmed their support for President Goukouni.

Without referring specifically to France, JANA said Col. Qadhafi and Mr. Benjedid had condemned "the imperialist attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of Chad."

## We want every penny back, Bani-Sadr tells U.S.

**BEIRUT, Dec. 15 (AP) —** Iranian President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr today blamed the United States for the delay in freeing the 52 American hostages and said Washington must be prepared to return every penny of Iranian wealth before the standoff can be ended.

Majlis (parliament) has not returned our money there is any obstacle it is in the hands of America gives," Bani-Sadr told a news conference for foreign reporters in Beirut.

"The principal reason for the delay in the hands of those who hold real power in the United States," he said.

He did not elaborate, but said a U.S. decision to withhold a release of Iranian assets "clearly leads to a solution."

Bani-Sadr was commenting on the delay in Iran's response to the U.S. clarification of the conditions proposed for the release of the hostages, held now for more than 13 months. He said the delay rests with the United States, for failing to clear terms its acceptance demands adopted Nov. 2 by Congress.

only of the money that was stolen by the Shah and his relatives. I am speaking also of the money that belongs to the Iranian government and is in the U.S. banks or the banks that are under U.S. control," Mr. Bani-Sadr said.

Iran has demanded the return of the wealth of the late Shah and his immediate family, withdrawal of pending U.S. lawsuits against Iran, release of more than \$8 billion in Iranian assets frozen in U.S. banks and a U.S. pledge of non-interference in Iranian affairs.

The U.S. government is reported to have explained the legal obstacles to its fulfilling the first two demands, but reportedly said the other two conditions could be met without difficulty.

Last week, Executive Affairs Minister Behzad Nabavi, chief of the Iranian government commission studying the hostage

issue, publicly rejected the U.S. position that the U.S. courts must decide who is entitled to the Shah's holdings in the United States.

"This point must be cleared up, that is whether they (the U.S. government) will return the money to us. I do not think our people will accept a solution which would result in the loss of one penny of their money," said Mr. Bani-Sadr, who is not directly involved in the hostage negotiations.

Mr. Ahmad Azizi, an Iranian official closely involved in the hostage case, said yesterday the hostages could be freed by Christmas if Washington acted quickly to meet Iran's demands.

On Iran's 12-week-old war with Iraq, President Bani-Sadr restated today that Iran would not accept peace negotiations until all Iraqi troops had left Iranian soil.

He said this view had been conveyed to Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who has visited both Baghdad and Tehran several times on a peace mission sponsored by the non-aligned movement.

Mr. Bani-Sadr conceded that Iran had serious economic problems, but he said these had existed before the war began on Sept. 22 and now were more tolerable for the people.

The president added that Iran was not yet so poor that it could not afford to import what it needed.

Tehran Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Mr. Bani-Sadr left

interview that Mr. Carter may have lost interest after the election in securing the release of the hostages.

"It is probably true that Jimmy Carter wanted to solve the problem and freed the hostages in the past," Dr. Bani-Sadr said in an interview broadcast last night on the American CBS television network's 60 Minutes programme.

"But there's a difference between Jimmy Carter before the elections and Jimmy Carter after the elections," he said. "That is, the motivation to bring about the release of the hostages is gone."

Mr. Bani-Sadr said he thought Mr. Carter "either wants to solve the problem in such a way that criticism against him is minimised, or he will leave the problem for Mr. (Ronald) Reagan," the president-elect.

Asked about the Iranian charge, a White House spokesman said last night that "we wouldn't want to dignify that with a comment. It's just ludicrous. The record speaks for itself."

CBS News, which interviewed Mr. Bani-Sadr in Iran, also broadcast an interview in which the commander-in-chief of Iran's western front army said he believed the United States would intervene on behalf of Iraq if Iraq were disabled in its war against

Iran.

"American navies are near our borders and so, after defeating Iraq, we will fight the United States," said Col. Hassan Attarian. He did not elaborate.

In his interview, Mr. Bani-Sadr said he believed the United States and Iran could one day establish cultural relations as long as Iran was free "from the domination of the United States."

Asked if he thought the United States and Iran must become allies to ensure their security, Mr. Bani-Sadr replied: "If you mean the power of the United States to be allied with Iran, it is exactly like the unity of the wolf and the sheep... in any kind of alliance with the United States, we will be the sheep."

On another topic, Mr. Bani-Sadr said people in his country were being tortured. "It comes from the weaknesses and inadequacies of certain individuals. And this is exactly why we are so worried about it," Mr. Bani-Sadr said, apparently referring to Islamic hardliners in the revolutionary government.

"I must point out that there is a fundamental difference between the situation as it existed under the Shah (and the present). I do not at all mean that there is a similarity between the two situations in all dimensions," he said.

the assembly reaffirmed its rejection of the 1978 Camp David accords which became the basis for the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel the following year.

The resolution reaffirmed the assembly's "rejection of those provisions of the accords which ignore, infringe, violate or deny the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of return, the right of self-determination and the right to national independence and sovereignty in Palestine."

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Meanwhile, U.S. special envoy Sol Linowitz today reassured

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat at the President-elect Ronald Reagan's determination against changing any part of the Camp David accords without the consent of Egypt and Israel.

(Mr. Linowitz met with Mr. Sadat for 70 minutes at the latter's summer home outside Cairo. He was to fly on to Israel for meetings with leaders there tomorrow.)

A separate resolution on occupied Jerusalem strongly censured Israel's legislation declaring the holy city, including the eastern sector captured in 1967, to be its capital.



Egyptian President Anwar Sadat embraces U.S. special envoy Sol Linowitz on Monday after their 70-minute meeting. (AP wirephoto)

## Unity talks start in Tripoli

**BEIRUT, Dec. 15 (R) —** Syrian President Hafez Al Assad flew to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah today for talks with Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi about an agreed merger between their two countries.

Syria and the Libyan Jamahiriyyah declared themselves a single state on Sept. 10, nine days after Col. Qadhafi proposed the merger.

A 14-point proclamation issued in Tripoli during an earlier visit to the Libyan capital by President Assad pledged full political, economic and military union.

But since then the merger was reported here to have run into difficulties and a planned trip by Col. Qadhafi to Syria to discuss details of the union between the two countries never took place.

The Syrian delegation includes

Prime Minister Abdul Raut Al Kasm, Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar and the undersecretary of the Arab Socialist Baath Party, Mr. Zuhair Mecharha.

Observers in Damascus saw the exclusion of Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass and other military officials from the delegation as significant, indicating that no steps were likely to be taken on a military level.





# Jordan Times

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## Shaker briefs King, cabinet, NCC on military situation



Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker gives a briefing on the military situation Monday to His Majesty King

Hussein, the government and the National Consultative Council. (Photo by Yousef Al-Allan)

Unless additional \$49m is raised

## UNRWA schools threatened with closure at the end of May

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JT) — Unless the income of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for next year increases by at least \$40 million over the coming four months, the agency's elementary and lower

secondary schools in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will have to be closed by the end of May 1981, UNRWA's commissioner general announced today.

The effect of this action would be to deprive 339,000 children between the ages of six and 14 of the education programme which UNRWA considers the most constructive of its services to Palestinian refugees. It would also mean the termination of the contracts of 9,700 teachers, themselves Palestinian refugees.

At an extraordinary meeting on Friday at the United Nations headquarters in New York, Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck spoke of the financial crisis which UNRWA faces to representatives of the 10 member governments of the UNRWA Advisory Commission (Belgium, Egypt, France, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States).

"I fully recognise the harm which would be caused by the abandonment of any part of

UNRWA's school system," Mr. Rydbeck told the delegates, "and I would avoid such an action if I possibly could." But a prospective deficit of \$71 million in a budget of \$231 million had brought him to the "unavoidable conclusion" that only by cutting into the school programme could the agency remain solvent, he said.

Every alternative way of reducing costs had been sought, Mr. Rydbeck said, and possible savings of \$31 million identified to other parts of the budget; already threatening the viability of UNRWA's programmes. But the minimum share which the school programme would have to bear of the deficit would be \$40 million.

Advisory Commission members shared the commissioner general's view that the implications of the crisis went beyond the purely humanitarian, since UNRWA's health and relief ser-

vices, and especially its education programme, contributed in an important way to political stability in the Middle East. Mr. Rydbeck said that UNRWA was a "peacekeeping operation in the Middle East," and that if the schools were to close, the repercussions would be serious.

The Advisory Commission considered two alternative courses of action put before them by the commissioner general, both designed to achieve the required \$40 million savings. The first would have involved closing 314 schools in Jordan and Syria only—but at the end of February 1981. The second, involving the closure of all 635 schools in all five fields of the agency's operations at the end of the school year in May 1981, was potentially more drastic. But the time available before notices would have to be sent out to teachers in March could be used to renew efforts to raise the additional funds necessary to prevent the action having to be taken.

Mr. Rydbeck said he interpreted the advice of the commission members as pointing to the second of the two options: to delay action on the school programme until the end of the school year, in the hope that the intervening months would produce the funds to keep the schools going—with the attendant risk that all might then have to be closed. But the \$40 million would have to be found by March, Mr. Rydbeck warned today. Otherwise notices of termination would have to go out to the teachers at that time.

Mr. Rydbeck said he "fervently hoped" that the international community would respond to the appeals of the Advisory Commission members, and to his own, and avoid what could be a "great catastrophe" for the Palestinian refugees and "all those with an interest in peace and stability in the Middle East."

## Bid committee for Abu Nuseir

AMMAN, Dec. 15 (Petra) — A special technical committee was set up today to study bids by eight international companies for the construction of the Abu Nuseir housing estate in the western suburbs of Amman.

The selection of the committee members, all specialists in construction and housing schemes, took place at a meeting held at the Housing Corporation attended by representatives of the eight companies bidding.

The project will be carried out in two stages, and the company selected will be required to implement the first stage of the project only, entailing the construction of 3,650 housing units, according to the Housing Corporation's director general, Mr. Hamdallah Al Nabulsi.

The first stage also provides for the construction of internal main roads, rainwater drains, water pipe networks, sewerage, telephone and electricity networks, he said.

He added that the second stage of the project entails the construction of 3,850 housing units and public utilities. These include schools, sports grounds, commercial centres, mosques, market places, entertainment centres and the like.

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## Positions and juxtapositions

SOME ADJACENT headlines from recent newspapers: "Israel to expand two West Bank settlements"; "Golan Heights annexation imminent"; "Daily Israeli raids continue in Lebanon"; "Violence erupts on West Bank — students shot"; "Israel bars western reporters from West Bank"; "Begin and Carter agree: Peace process must go on"; "Linowitz in Cairo with Reagan message for Sadat".

Thus do we descend ever deeper into a quagmire from which there seems to be no escape.

The nascent Reagan administration in Washington shows alarming signs of forging ahead with the faltering Camp David process. This apparent insistence would seem to be at variance with the Reagan team's own instincts about the coming phase of U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East. Certainly, the Israeli regime of Mr. Begin is doing everything in its power to challenge, in the mind of any American administration, the logic and sanity of continuing to talk about "peace" and "security" with an Israel obviously bent on aggression and expansion.

The other party to the Camp David process, President Sadat of Egypt, sensing a shift in the wind, has been busy covering himself with a variety of proposals for an active U.S. military presence in the area, hoping this will appeal to the somewhat primitive notions Mr. Reagan has been known to harbour about the fundamentals of American "security" arrangements in the Middle East.

While Sadat is no doubt at the moment a more appealing figure to the Americans even than Begin, the danger always increases that his flirtations with the U.S. will isolate Egypt permanently from the rest of the Arab World and what could be virtually the last chance he has to extricate himself from the quagmire.

The Arab consensus is that an American role is always welcomed in a true search for peace, and in the devising of arrangements which truly contribute to realistic security guarantees for all the countries of the region.

Since the United States, as the main backer and supporter of Israel all these years, has hardly had a balanced approach to the problem up to now; and since the United States, as one of the superpowers and the world's biggest consumer of oil, approaches the question of regional security from its own particular vantage point, it will require considerable shifts in perception for its interests to be married up with those of the Arab states.

But the opening is there, none the less, if the U.S. wishes to take the opportunity to bring its own interests into balance with ours.

This is particularly relevant now that Mr. Brezhnev has come up with his own plan for the Soviet Union to act as a guarantor of peace and tranquillity in a region divested of Big Power influence and rivalry.

These are the opportunities presenting themselves to the Reagan administration. The best way of approaching them would hardly seem to be through the disastrous formula of Camp David, which has led us to the unhappy juxtaposition of realities portrayed in the headlines every day.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: The Zionist entity is currently experiencing a state of social dismemberment and economic deterioration which might soon lead to the fall of the government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin, or at least the loss by this government of the ability to exercise its powers.

Before this government could catch its breath following the resignations of Mr. Moshe Dayan and then Mr. Ezer Weizman, the scandal of the minister of religious affairs surfaced, to affirm that the real crisis within the ruling coalition is an ethical crisis in the first place, not a political one.

If we add to this the state of complete bankruptcy revealed on Sunday when the Israeli cabinet discussed the new annual budget, we can realise that the Zionist entity lacks the minimum economic underpinning required for survival.

The most important lesson we Arabs must learn is that in our struggle with Zionism, we are confronting a weak and collapsing entity lacking in ability to succeed in a confrontation. The only factor which helps this entity is the weakness and dismemberment crippling the Arab Nation and preventing it from using its real capabilities in this confrontation.

Until the Arab Nation becomes capable of healing the wounds which are dismembering the one Arab body, the only weapon which Israel will need to use in its ferocious onslaught on the Arabs is that of Arab differences, which our enemy has proved its ability to use, and even to create.

AL DUSTOUR: The U.S. envoy to the autonomy talks arrived in Cairo Sunday, saying he was carrying letters from President-elect Ronald Reagan to President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin. It was reported that Mr. Reagan was waiting for a report from his envoy on the progress of the autonomy negotiations. It was also said that Mr. Reagan would not introduce any changes in the plans prepared at Camp David to achieve peace in the area without the approval of Egypt and Israel.

Thus it is evident that the Camp David agreements, with which President Carter hoped to buy the Jewish vote, have failed both to achieve that goal for President Carter and to achieve peace for Mr. Sadat. These agreements succeeded in one thing only: namely in forming a basis of U.S. policy, even under Mr. Carter's successor.

The Arabs have opposed the Camp David agreements for several reasons, the most important being that they give legitimacy to the occupation which our kinsmen are still resisting.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Exhibition

The Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives presents a documentary exhibition at the Aqaba Hotel lobby as part of National Archives Week.

### Book display

Yarmouk University presents a Spanish book display at the university library. Books on display include a selection of works on Andalusian history, translations and modern Spanish literature.

### Panel discussion

Yarmouk University will hold a panel discussion entitled "Islamic Culture between Past and Future". Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan of Yarmouk University and Dr. Mohammad Saqar of the University of Jordan will take part in the discussion, which will start at Yarmouk University at 3:30 p.m.

### Christmas parties

A Christmas party for handicapped children will be held under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Basma at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, at 4 p.m.

The Elementary Student Council presents a Christmas programme to be performed by fifth and sixth graders and Scorpion performers, at 7 p.m. at the American Community School.

### Films

The British Council continues its documentary series "Life on Earth", starting at 8 p.m. with part five "Conquest of the Water", followed by part six, "The Invasion of Land".

The American Centre presents "Grapes of Wrath", at 7 p.m. in the centre's auditorium, near Third Circle in Jabal Amman. Tickets will be issued during library hours on a first-come first-served basis.

The Goethe Institute presents "A Knife in the Back", a colour film in German with English sub-titles. Show time is 8 p.m., at the Institute in Jabal Amman.



## Local News Briefs

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—His Majesty King Hussein today sent a good wishes to the ruler of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Ibn Balman, on his country's independence anniversary. He wished Issa success in leading Bahrain to progress and prosperity.

**N, Dec. 15 (JT)**—His Majesty King Hussein today sent a sympathy to French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing on the death of French Defence Minister Joel Le Theule. The late minister died of a heart attack yesterday at the age of 50.

**N, Dec. 15 (JT)**—25 people died and 486 were injured in road accidents last month, the Public Security Directorate said today. The directorate said the casualty figure for the month was less than that of November. Thirty citizens died were wounded in 961 road accidents in October. The directorate noted that the casualty figure for November 1980 was also less than in November 1979, when 32 citizens died and 588 were injured in 989 accidents. The directorate appealed to the both drivers and pedestrians—to abide by traffic regulations and to cooperate with the Traffic Department in order to minimise the of road accidents.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—An exhibition of Spanish poetry and art was opened at the University of Jordan today. The exhibition was opened by Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra, opened the exhibition which are displayed Arabic sonnets translated into Spanish as a gift to the Spanish city of Granada, and several other poets. Attending the opening of the four-day exhibition were a number of faculty deans and the Spanish charge d'affaires in Amman.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—Teams from the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Agriculture visited stores and restaurants in the Jabal Al Naser districts of Amman last week and confiscated quantities of foodstuffs. A ministry spokesman said these quantities were found unfit for human consumption.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—Work on the Queen Alia International Airport will be completed by April 1982, according to a spokesman of the Ministry of Transport. He said that hangars for aircraft will be completed by the middle of 1981. A hotel for the passengers will be built at the airport, which is expected to cost \$10 million, he said.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—The head of the European Economic Community (EEC) mission in Jordan, Mr. Thomas Sullivan, met today with the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Ahmad Al Fawwaz. They discussed relations between Jordan and the EEC.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—The cabinet yesterday formed Jordanian delegations to the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, which is to be held in the Moroccan city of Fez on Dec. 18. Foreign Minister Ahmad Al Fawwaz will lead the delegation to the two-day meeting. The committee is chaired by the Moroccan king. The Jordanian delegation will be headed by the under-secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, Mr. Abdul Rahim Jarrah.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—Somali Minister of Mineral Resources Abdul Qadir Qasim left Amman today at the end of a visit to Jordan. He had discussed with Jordanian officials a number of subjects connected with economic cooperation between Jordan and Somalia. He also discussed with officials of the Arab Company mining projects being carried out jointly in Jordan and the company.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—The under-secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, opened here today meetings of specialists charged with drawing up pay policies for workers in Jordan. In a speech to the participants, Dr. Abdul Jabbar, in his capacity as board director of the Arab Labour Organisation called for working out an inter-Arab draft agreement that would define the main principles and policies of labourers' pay. He said an agreement will be submitted to the Arab labour ministering which will be held in March of next year. Taking part in the meetings are experts from Jordan, Syria, Morocco, Iraq and the ALO, as well as the International Confederation of Trade Unions.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—The revenues of the department of lands for last month totalled JD 1,370,177, according to the department's director, Mr. Badri Al Mulgi. He said the figure is the highest in the month of November since the establishment of the department.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—A joint services council has been set up for the villages of Shaqia and Shawabish in Madaba according to the district governor, Mr. Mohammad Al Disi. The council will supervise educational, health and transport in the area of the villages.

**N, Dec. 15 (Petra)**—The Swiss ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Dubois, met with Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub today to discuss Jordanian supply projects. They discussed the supply of technical and electrical equipment for grain silos in Amman and the Ministry of Supply is currently engaged in expanding the silos.

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## Old houses tell tales of Amman's past

Special to the Jordan Times

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first of a series of articles about Amman's past by Lee Testell, to appear weekly in the Jordan Times.

**THOUGH** people come and go with time, buildings remain long enough to offer at least a reminder of the past. For that reason, this writer visited two majestic old homes in Jabal Amman to try to discover their stories.

First we went to the home of Mr. Issa Frayyeh Nusheiwat and his family. Two members of the family were home, but they directed me to Mr. Farah Frayyeh's office in Rida Street, where we discussed the past over coffee.

The house is located between the Halton Hotel and the Hayek Building, (the former Prime Ministry) below the First Circle. It was designed by Sharif Fawwaz Al Muhanna and built by a contractor from the Madani family in 1938-39. Mr. Frayyeh recalls that his father's friends wondered at that time why he wanted to build so far from the town—ironic considering the fact that this is now one of the busiest districts in Amman.

The house was built at a cost of one thousand Palestinian pounds, the currency in use at the time; and the two dunams on which it stands were bought several years earlier for eighty pounds. Today the land and house could well bring JD 500,000 on the market, according to Mr. Frayyeh.

When the house was finished the owner and his family moved into the upper storey while a Lebanese dentist, Mr. Ibrahim Katbi, opened his clinic on the ground floor. About a year later the Frayyeh family moved downstairs. Soon thereafter, in 1941, Mr. Suleiman Sukkar moved in upstairs. During his residence there—which lasted until 1963—he became a minister in the cabinet, and Mr. Frayyeh recalls that King Abdullah used to visit him there.

Although Mr. Issa Frayyeh was a native of Salt, his son Farah was born in Jerusalem. They moved to Amman in 1936. Issa Frayyeh opened a money-changing business in Amman, and also sold building materials. His partner in the building materials business, Mr. Ya'qub Sabella, built a house next to the Frayyeh house.

This house later was sold to Mr. Adib Sabbagh, who rebuilt it and rented it to the British government as their embassy.

The Frayyeh house's floor was tiled with stone imported from

Syria, and its wood-lattice-screens came from Syria as well. The floor tiles cost one gold English pound a square metre, according to Mr. Frayyeh.

The house was wired for electricity from the beginning, and water came from the now-demolished water tower behind Malhas Hospital above First Circle.

After leaving Mr. Frayyeh in his office we went on our way to the Aref Al Aref house at the junction of Asfour and Mango streets (above Khirfan Street, below First Circle in Jabal Amman). Though they directed us to the eldest son of Aref Al Aref as the best source of information, the present occupants knew a bit about the house. It was, they said, one of the first villas in Amman when it was built in 1923. The builders, they said, were Mohammad and Darwish Abdul Afa, builders of the Wadia Qussous home higher up the hill.

We chatted with Mr. Samir Al Aref several days later to fill in the details of the house's history.

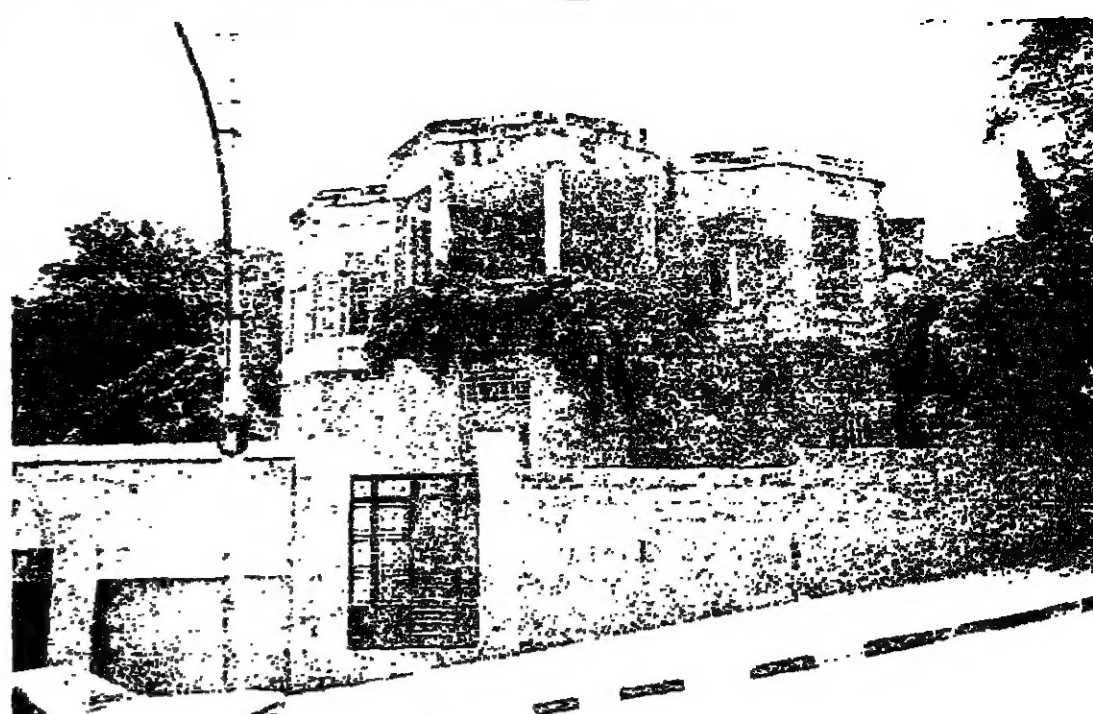
The story began, he said, when his father, an official in the Palestine government, seconded to the Transjordanian government to fill an administrative post, along with Mr. Samir Rifai, Mr. Ibrahim Hashem and Mr. Tawfiq Abdul Huda.

First, Aref Al Aref, who is



The Aref Al Aref home was one of the first villas in Amman, built in the early 1920s. Its arches are unique in Amman. The floors are covered with

beautiful tiles and the veranda offers an attractive view of downtown—a view which has changed drastically during the life of the house.



The Issa Frayyeh house was designed by Sharif Fawwaz Al Muhanna, and built in 1938-39. People wondered at that time why the owner wanted to

build so far out of town. The house stands just above the Jordan Distribution Agency and the Halton Hotel, below First Circle.

known for his extensive historical writing, lived in Salt Road, but soon, upon a friend's advice, bought the lot in Jabal Amman. There was already a small house on the land, in which he lived while the new house was being built. When the latter was finished other families lived in it: the initial owner himself never did.

Aref Al Aref had a love for arches, as this house shows (as do his other house in Amman and two in Palestine).

Recently, when Mr. Samir Al Aref looked into the ownership of the house, he found that it had been owned by his father and four sisters. In 1975 he sold it to Mr. Abdul Aziz Battikhi.

The house was occupied for many years by a certain Englishman named Mr. Ledger, whom Mr. Aref remembers as the owner of Arab Airways. Mr. Aref's first aeroplane ride was in 1949 or 1950 in a biplane belonging to that company from Jerusalem to Beirut. The journey took three hours, he remembers.



The Issa Frayyeh house appears in this postcard from the 1950s, at the lower left. The Hayek building just up the hill a bit was the Prime Ministry for

some time. Terraced fields can be seen at the upper right, in what today is a residential area.

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2. Agents can obtain a copy of the tender documents from: The secretary of the Tender Committee, Telecommunications Corporation, Third Circle, Jabal Amman, against payment a non-refundable fee of JD 50. The latest date for bid submission to the Telecommunications Corporation headquarters in Amman is 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, 1981.

Tender documents include:

- Section 1. Instructions to bidders.
- Section 2. Requirement specifications.
- Section 3. Technical specification.
- Section 4. General conditions of contract, Plus Addendum No. 1.

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# Israelis fret over election setbacks in U.S. Congress

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Israelis are seemingly very worried about the incoming Republican administration, and Republican-dominated Congress, in the United States, feeling that it will be less sympathetic to their needs than previous Democratic administrations and Democratic-controlled Congresses. These Israeli concerns are reflected in the following article by Jerusalem Post Washington correspondent Wolf Blitzer. It is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post Magazine, Dec. 12.

NEW YORK'S Jews certainly did not cast their ballots for Alphonse D'Amato in November's U.S. Senate race. In overwhelming numbers, they supported either Democratic Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman or Republican incumbent Jacob Javits, running on the Liberal Party ticket after he lost the GOP nomination to D'Amato.

But the conservative D'Amato's narrow victory over Holtzman (Javits ran a distant third) may now prove not to have been such a "disaster" after all. D'Amato's "New Right" credentials can be expected to increase his influence with the new Republican majority in the Senate and the Reagan administration.

Holtzman's liberal Democratic background would have made her persona non grata to the new U.S. leadership. D'Amato, a relatively unknown Long Island politician whose attitude towards Israel remains untested, can, nevertheless, be expected to become a pro-Israel champion in the Senate.

There are several reasons for this. First, every New York state senator is pro-Israel. To expect anything else from someone who represents all those Jewish voters would be unrealistic. D'Amato, only 43 years old, probably will want to serve several terms. He will not want to disappoint Israel's many supporters back home, even if they did not vote for him the first time around.

Second, D'Amato did, in fact, say all the "right" things about Israel during the campaign, even though he recognised that he was not going to win many Jewish votes.

"I'm not naive," he told the *Long Island Jewish World* shortly before his stunning victory over Javits in the Republican primary. "How many people in the Jewish community, without having the benefit of meeting Al D'Amato personally—

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, who died, and Republican Clifford Case of New Jersey, defeated two years ago. Both were key members of the foreign relations committee, who never let Israel down.

The last contests saw several other pro-Israel leaders go down in defeat, including three critical foreign relations committeemen: Javits, chairman Frank Church of Idaho, and Richard Stone of Florida. Other defeated liberal Democrats who supported Israel in the roll calls, even if they were not as active as those three, were Senators Birch Bayh of Indiana, George McGovern of South Dakota, John Culver of Iowa, John Dirksen of New Hampshire, Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin and Warren Magnuson of Washington state.

When it came to Israel, Magnuson almost always voted with his state's junior senator, Henry Jackson.

## Missed

No doubt, these senators will be sorely missed. But other pro-Israel voices, both Republican and Democratic remain.

There will be, for instance, six Jews in the Senate, one less than in the 96th session. Javits and Stone were defeated, and Democrat Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut retired. But two new Jewish senators were elected: Republicans Warren Rudman, 49, of New Hampshire, and Arlen Specter, 50, of Pennsylvania. They join four other Jewish incumbents, who were not up for re-election: Republican Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota, and Democrats Ed Zoritsky of Nebraska, Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio and Carl Levin of Michigan.

Boschwitz, a Berlin-born Jew whose parents fled Nazi Germany when he was three years old, is going on the foreign relations committee — a development enthusiastically welcomed by Israeli officials and other pro-Israel activists on Capitol Hill.

Boschwitz, a strong supporter of Israel, can be expected to fill the vacuum created by the departure from the committee of Javits and Stone.

Indeed, from his seat on the panel, the Minnesota lawmaker can be expected to emerge as the leading pro-Israel spokesman of the Senate's six Jews. Zoritsky, a former mayor of Omaha, is also a member of the committee, but in the past he has never taken a leadership stance on Israel.

Jewish members of the Senate and House — of the 435 members in the House, 27 will be Jewish, a gain of five from the last session — have always recognised the special role they play among their non-Jewish colleagues on "Israel issues." Their positions on sensitive issues can be decisive in swaying a roll call.

Thus, Ribicoff's decision in 1978 to support the Carter administration's "package" sale of F-15 aircraft to Saudi Arabia was probably the single most effective weapon the administration had in winning that legislative battle. If a Jew like Ribicoff could vote for the sale, the reasoning went, why couldn't the non-Jews?

Many senators look to the Jewish members for guidance on issues affecting Israel and on other matters of Jewish concern, like Soviet Jewish emigration.

There was also some other good news for Israel when it was learned that Republican Senator Charles Mathias of Maryland and Democrat Alan Cranston of California would become members of the foreign relations committee. Both have been supportive of Israel in the past.

But the committee will be chaired by Charles Percy of Illinois, who since 1975 has taken what Israeli officials and other pro-Israel lobbyists here consider a "pro-Palestinian" position.

Over the years, however, Percy has always voted for Israel's foreign aid packages.

The committee must approve all economic and military aid programmes. Israel, which receives nearly \$2 billion every year in combined U.S. aid, is the largest single foreign assistance recipient.

## Lobby

Thomas A. Dine, a former legislative assistant to Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, who succeeded Morris Amitay as the executive director of the America-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the Israel lobby on Capitol Hill, suggested that the foreign relations panel "will no longer be the sweetheart committee we once knew." This was clearly a reference to the tenure of ousted chairman Church, who could always be counted on to defend Israel's stance.

Dine, speaking before publication of reports



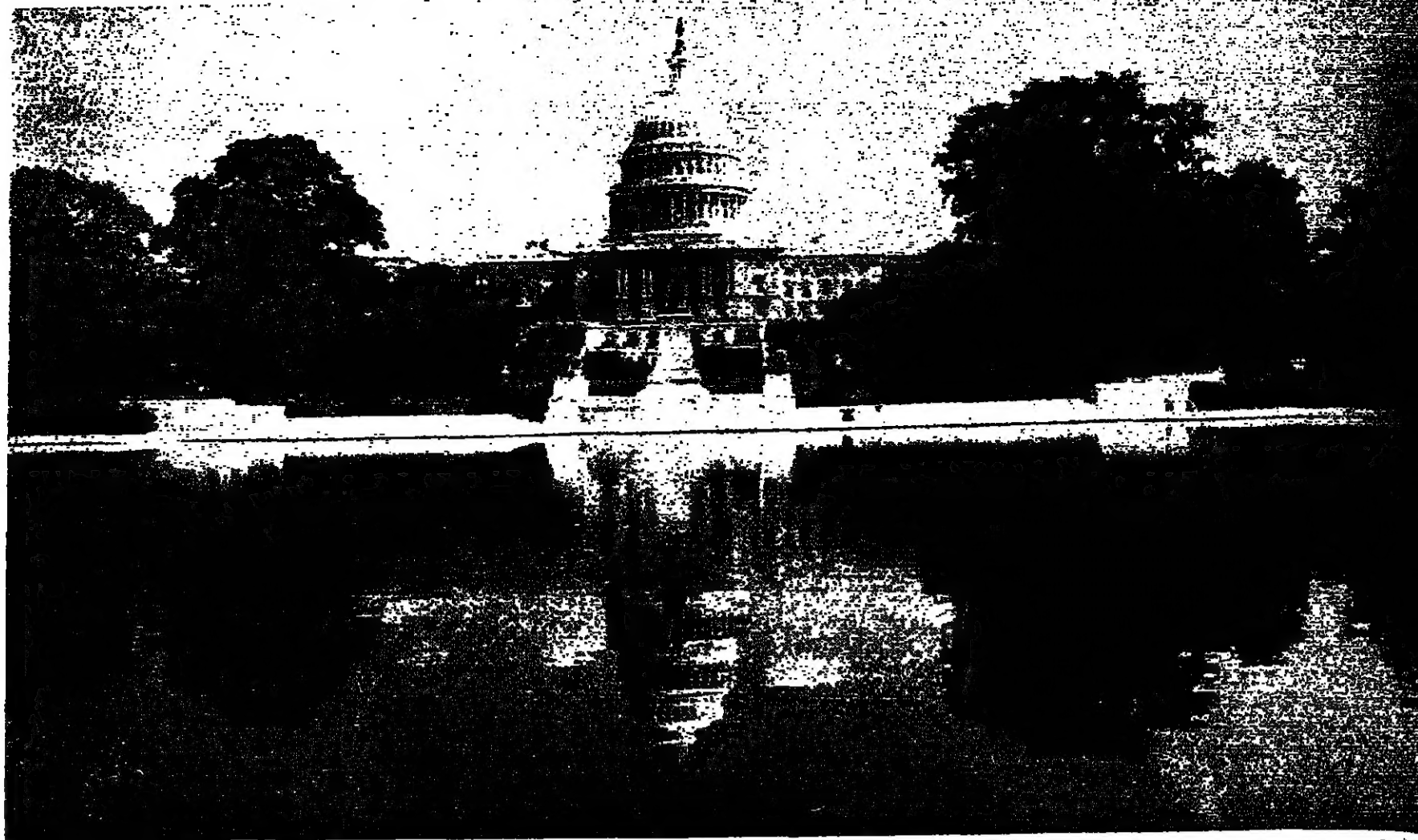
Henry Jackson: Israel's top booster

that Percy had told Soviet leaders he favoured a PLO state — which Percy asserted were "inaccurate" — had this to say about the Illinois senator: "Until his trip to Israel, Egypt, Lebanon and other places in 1975, he has a 'model' nine-year record. Then he turned cool towards Israel, championing Sadat and calling Arafat — with whom he met — a 'relative moderate'."

"Since the trip, he has repeatedly said that Israel must solve the Palestinian problem, and that America's economy is linked to a Middle East peace. Late in his 1978 re-election campaign, when he faced a serious challenge, Percy returned to the pro-Israel fold."

There are other Republicans who can be expected to fill the void left by Church, Stone, Javits and the others. Specifically, Israel is fortunate to have such committed supporters as Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, Robert Dole of Kansas, Robert Packwood of Oregon, William Cohen of Maine (a practising Unitarian whose father was Jewish), John Danforth of Missouri, Lowell Weicker of Connecticut, Paul Laxalt of Nevada and John Heinz of Pennsylvania.

Laxalt will be especially important because he is



Israelis are reflecting on the implications of the Republican victories on Capitol Hill, which wiped out many traditionally pro-Israel Congressmen.

Reagan's best friend in Congress. Recognising this fact, Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron flew to Las Vegas to be present during an Israel Bond dinner honouring Laxalt. The Nevada senator assured Evron and the dinner guests that Reagan would fully honour his many campaign commitments to Israel.

The new Senate majority leader, Howard Baker of Tennessee, represents a net plus, as far as Israel is concerned, over his predecessor, Democratic leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia. It was Byrd, after all, who agitated Israel and its supporters by publicly floating the idea of a cut in U.S. aid to Israel because of its settlement policies on the West Bank.

On the Democratic side, Israel also retains many committed and proven friends, including Kennedy, Jackson, Michigan's Don Riegle, New Jersey's Bill Bradley and Delaware's Joseph Biden, just to mention a few.

Still, the new makeup of the Senate will cause serious political dislocations for Israel.

It will mean, at least in the short run, that Israel will be more dependent than ever before on the goodwill of the executive branch of the U.S. government in meeting its very extensive economic, military and political requirements.

In the past, either when Democrats or Republicans controlled the White House, Israel could count on its friends in the Senate and House to

the administration withheld introducing its foreign aid bill to Congress. It was then that 76 senators signed a letter to Ford calling for continued, strong economic, military and diplomatic support for Israel. On other occasions, influential



Charles Percy: 'Pro-PLO'

senators and representatives protested what they considered to be ill-timed diplomatic initiatives, such as the Oct. 1, 1977, U.S.-Soviet joint communique on the Middle East, or the December 1969 "Rogers Plan", which called on Israel to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines with only minor modifications. Any flirtations with the PLO were always challenged in Congress, as were anti-Israel votes at the U.N.

## Counterweight

With the overwhelming victory of the Republicans and their effective control of the executive and legislative branches of the government, it will now be more difficult to use the Congress as a counterweight to the administration, especially to the State Department, which will probably have extensive authority in the Reagan presidency.

Reagan can be expected to have a lengthy honeymoon with his Congress. Because the Republicans in the House and Senate can be expected to go along, more or less, with the Reagan White House, Israel will have to fight its battles more forcefully with the administration itself — before final decisions are taken and sent to the Congress for consideration.

This means that the internal decision-making process in the Reagan administration takes on an added importance.

The area where this will be most decisive, according to well-placed Capitol Hill experts, is foreign aid. Because so many conservative Republicans have historically voted against the worldwide foreign aid bills, Israeli officials recognise that it will largely be up to the Reagan administration to push through the legislation for Israel.

It will be very difficult for Congress to take the initiative in increasing aid for Israel, especially with Hatfield in the chair of the appropriations committee.

In many respects, having Hatfield as chairman of the appropriations committee will resemble Senator J. William Fulbright's tenure as chairman of the foreign relations committee. Fulbright was also a strong critic of Israel. Both panels separately review the foreign aid legislation during the lengthy and complicated procedure leading to final passage.

Overcoming Fulbright's pro-Arab bias was difficult, but eventually proved possible. In those days, Israel had an abundance of friends on the foreign relations committee. Things will be considerably more difficult challenging Hatfield, unless, that is, Reagan and his team use all of their influence and power to defend aid for Israel.

"As an ally of the U.S.," Reagan declared during the campaign, "Israel must have the means to remain strong and secure. Over the years, the United States has provided economic and defence assistance, and a Reagan administration will maintain this traditional commitment."

We will soon learn whether that was merely campaign rhetoric. Reagan repeatedly identified Israel as America's major "strategic asset" in the Middle East. Now he will have an opportunity to treat it accordingly.

If he wavers, the new alignment in Congress and the loss of so many pro-Israel friends portend deep trouble for Israel, at a time when its economic, political and military needs are greater than ever before. If Reagan keeps his word, even Hatfield and Percy won't make that much of a difference.



Frank Church: defeated pro-Zionist

come to its defence during periods of friction with the administration. Congress was the safety net. In particular, Congress had come to play essential roles in three areas:

## Economic and military assistance

On several occasions, going back to 1948 and including this past year, when an administration's proposed aid bill included too little assistance for Israel or did not offer that aid at the most advantageous terms, key members of the House and Senate moved to improve the package for Israel during their separate consideration of the legislation. Invariably, the administration went along with the pro-Israel congressional initiatives.

## Arms sales

Congress protested loudly when it felt that an administration in power was either not providing necessary hardware to Israel or recommending advanced weaponry for Israel's Arab neighbours. When the Nixon administration held up Israel's request for Phantom fighters a decade ago, the House and Senate passed resolutions protesting the delay. Shortly thereafter, the planes started arriving in Israel.

Conversely, when an administration proposed large arms packages to various Arab countries, such as the advanced Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan five years ago or the F-15 sale to Saudi Arabia in 1978, congressional supporters of Israel made certain that the administration included restraints in the transactions, limiting the offensive firepower of the weapons involved. Jordan, for example, received the Hawks only on condition that they be fixed in sites in the eastern part of the country. Saudi Arabia's F-15's did not include extra bomb racks or fuel tanks, although its leadership is still pressing for them.

## Political and diplomatic support

The most impressive demonstration of support for Israel during a confrontation with an administration came in 1975, during the six-month Ford/Kissinger "reassessment" of relations with Israel. No new U.S. arms contracts were being signed and

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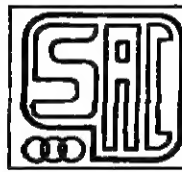
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Bob Minkle, 53, and his fellow prospector Dennis King.



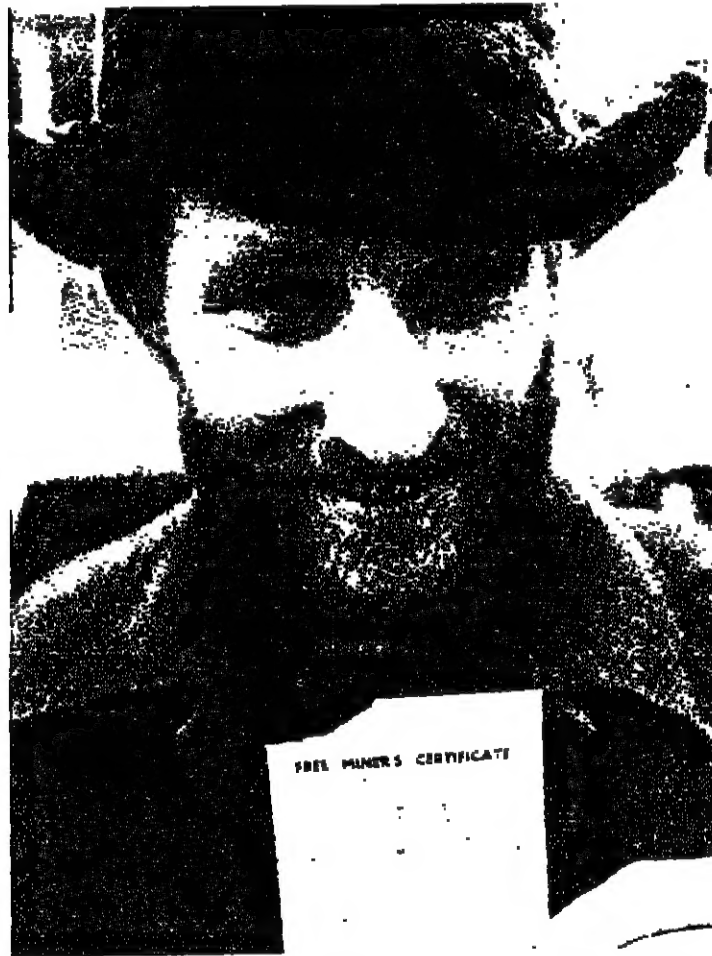
Some "baboons" recently arrived to try their luck. They are (from left to right) Mike Gitting, Sandy Roederer and Jim Paisley.

Thousands of prospectors search for a quick fortune

## Gold fever: Rush for Canada's frozen assets



Small lodes of gold.



Dennis King displays his certificate as an independent prospector.



Efram Specogna. His discovery of gold started the biggest rush since the turn of the century.



Bob Minkle sets out in search of fresh gold veins.

gold rush is attracting thousands of men to Graham in Canada.

day plane loads of young men and Canadians touch down at the Charlotte Islands to make a quick fortune by panning gold.

and 1,500 arrive on the Western plane every

month, but three-quarters of them get discouraged and quickly return home. Others stay for as long as 30 years and the hunt becomes a lifestyle.

Gold hunters pay \$5 for a certificate to look for gold, which gives them the right to prospect and legally register concessions. A concession may only be established on a place not yet attributed. Generally this hostile land belongs to no-one. They are called

"Free Crown Lands".

Italian immigrant Efram Specogna, now 50, discovered a vein of gold on the Indian territory which started the gold rush. That vein is estimated at 8 billion French francs.

His discovery not only made him a fortune but started the biggest gold rush since Klondike at the turn of the century.

Most prospectors "pan" for gold, which means looking for the

mineral using a special pan. The pan is filled with gravel from the river bed and shaken for several minutes. Gold, denser than the pebbles, stays on the bottom of the pan.

Professional prospectors equip themselves with a pick and shovel, a pan and snow shoes. Warm clothing is essential against the bitter weather and another must for gold hunters is a gun.

Some, like Bob Minkle, 53,

have discovered several major veins. He knows from experience that his most vital piece of equipment is a Smith and Wesson 44-calibre. He works closely with his friend Dennis King, 28, from Vancouver, Canada.

New prospectors who arrive at the archipelago's only airport of Sandspit, are known as baboons.

Although most are from North America others have travelled from Europe to try their luck.



Another plane load of hopefuls arrives at Sandspit airport.



Panning for gold from the river bed.



## Saudi cuts Japan's oil after unofficial sales

BAHRAIN, Dec. 15 (R) — The authoritative Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said today that Saudi Arabia had suspended delivering 140,000 barrels a day of extra crude oil to Japan because of overcharging, but was prepared to resume supplies if it was assured Japanese buyers of the crude would be charged the contracted price.

Japan had made the temporary oil deal to make up for the loss of oil from Iraq and Iran because of the war between the two Gulf countries.

The Nicosia-based oil industry journal said that seven tankers taking the contracted crude to Japan were diverted at sea when the Saudi government learned that a company, known as Petromonde, proposed to sell that oil at \$34.63 a barrel f.o.b. (free on board).

This breached Saudi Arabia's temporary contracts designed to make up for the Iraqi-Iranian shortfall.

The contracts stipulate that the buyers should present certified documents showing the f.o.b.

landed price is \$32 a barrel, MEES said.

"Saudi Arabia is prepared to resume deliveries under the contract if and when it can be assured 100 per cent that f.o.b. price is \$32 a barrel," MEES said, quoting reliable sources.

It said the Japanese ministry of international trade and industry had introduced Petromonde to purchase the extra crude on behalf of 18 Japanese customers.

MEES said that a previous temporary contract for the supply of 40,000 barrels a day of oil to Japan remained unaffected by the Saudi measures.

The Japanese international trade and industry minister, Mr. Rokusuke Tanaka, visited Saudi Arabia last week and was believed to have discussed the Saudi action in talks with the government leaders there.

But it was not known whether Mr. Tanaka succeeded in having the suspension order lifted.

Japan is heavily dependent on Arab oil, mostly from the Gulf.

## Dollar falls; gold rises

LONDON, Dec. 15 (R) — The dollar fell back below two West German marks today as it weakened against major currencies. And gold rose on world markets, reversing last week's situation when the U.S. currency was completely dominant.

The main reason for the change, dealers said, was falling Eurodollar deposit rates, interest rates on dollars deposited outside the United States. These have been rising above even the record-equaling 20 per cent reached by prime lending rates of major U.S. banks.

Dealers said the Eurodollar rates may have peaked, causing a downward reaction in the money markets.

Gold, helped by anxiety over possible new oil price rises resulting from the OPEC meeting in Bali, recovered by more than \$20 an ounce from Friday's price in Europe to \$384.

But it still failed to return to the \$600 an ounce level through which it fell earlier last week.

The dollar was sharply down at 208 yen in Tokyo today compared with Friday's 210.40. In Europe later it traded at 1.9690 West German marks, after 2.0065 on Friday.

After the dollar went above two marks last week for the first time in more than two years, it added to anxiety already being expressed by some West Germans about their economic situation.

Bundesbank (central bank) President Karl Otto Poehl in a magazine interview yesterday urged West Germans to export more goods and rely less on oil, in order to reduce their large balance of payments deficit and recover foreign confidence in the mark.

The pound sterling today rose to \$2.3385 from Friday's European close of 2.3245, although it was slightly down against European currencies.

Dealers said any decision by OPEC to raise oil prices would benefit sterling at the expense of the dollar, because of Britain's North Sea oil wealth, although the present high U.S. interest rates might still sustain the U.S. currency.

Market analysts in New York say U.S. interest rates may have to rise still further, as the United States fights to stop a renewal of inflation.

## Giscard delivers stern warning

PARIS, Dec. 15 (R) — Warning that the world now faces the most serious, longest and most testing economic crisis since the 1930s, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing today told the industrial democracies they must work together.

At a ceremony for the 30th anniversary of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), he said the effects of high inflation, widespread unemployment and expensive energy were being felt deeply by ordinary people in their daily lives.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing called on all 24 OECD nations to work together to overcome the crisis, adding it would be wrong for any

country to isolate itself in trying to solve its problems.

He recalled that the OECD was founded after the successful reconstruction of Europe following World War II. He said it had benefited the world community by promoting prosperity, stability and economic development.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said the industrial world must raise its economic growth, cut excessive spending, conserve energy and find new sources of energy.

France will be host at a United Nations conference on the economic problems of the developing world in Paris next September.

OECD Secretary-General Emile Van Lennep told member-nations' ambassadors

they had reached a remarkable consensus earlier this year in agreeing to give priority to curbing inflation. The OECD hopes this will restore growth and reduce unemployment.

Informed sources said OECD figures next week are expected to predict a rise to more than 25 million unemployed throughout the OECD area by the end of the next year.

Trade union leaders have said the tough anti-inflation monetary line of many governments has pushed up unemployment.

Mr. Van Lennep said the horizon was dark with problems but these could be overcome without resorting to protectionism if countries showed more flexibility where necessary in adopting broad policies to stimulate trade.

## Economic News Brief

### Canadian loan to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 15 (AP) — Canada will extend Pakistan a million loan for import of commodities under an agreement here Monday.

The agreement was signed by Mr. A. Douglas Small, the Canadian ambassador and Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Naik, secretary of the economic affairs division of Pakistan.

Pakistan will finance the import of aluminium, zinc, lead, asbestos fibre and synthetic rubber, with the loan. The interest-free and repayable in 50 years, including an 11-year period.

### Kuwaiti interest rates soar

KUWAIT, Dec. 15 (AP) — Interest rates for short-term loans sharply over the past week in Kuwait's local financial market, the Central Bank of Kuwait said in its weekly report Sunday.

The signs of easier tendency for interest rates continued beginning of the week with day-to-day and week funds available at 7.5 and 9.5 per cent respectively.

But this tendency was reversed later and the short-term rates climbed from the earlier standards to 11 and 12.5 per cent overnight and week loans respectively, the report said.

The market was extremely volatile, responding to the recent Eurodollar deposit rates, it added.

Interest rates for fixed periods also hardened in line with the term rates, the bank said, (AP)

### China reports new drilling

PEKING, Dec. 15 (R) — Drilling of the first deep oil well under a contract between the Chinese Petroleum Corp. and the ELF aquitaine Corporation of France started on the eastern part of the Bohai Gulf, the New China News reported last night.

The contract, signed on May 29, calls for oil exploration exploitation in an area of the gulf covering 9,400 square kilometers.

China also has contracts with the French company Total Japan National Oil Corporation for exploration and development of oil resources off the east coast.

### Metal exports boom, says Peking

PEKING, Dec. 15 (R) — China's exports of non-ferrous metals and rare metals reached \$100 million in value this year, New China News Agency (NCNA) reported today.

It said exports of sponge titanium had increased 32 per cent last year, while exports of rare earth metal compounds were 108 per cent and aluminium products by 300 per cent.

NCNA said China met its annual production quotas for aluminium, tin, tungsten and six other non-ferrous metals far ahead of schedule.

It said the ministry of metallurgical industry estimated production of non-ferrous metals would be up 6.5 per cent over 1979.

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, Dec. 15 (R) — The insurance sector was weak in fairly active trading following news of the proposed £116 million one-for-four rights issue by Royal Insurance, dealers said.

Royal Insurance dropped 4 1/2 p to 346p while other insurance issues fell in sympathy, dealers added. General Accident was down 2 1/2 p to 286p while Eagle Star and Phoenix Assurance lost 1 1/2 p and 1 1/4 p to 215p and 242p respectively.

Elsewhere, industrial leaders added between 2p and 4p in quiet trading with the FT index up 2.0 at 1500 at 4:02 p.m.

Government bonds closed with losses of up to 1/2 point at the longer end, dealers said.

Trading was thin with many operators winding down positions ahead of Christmas, dealers added.

Among leading equities, Glaxo, ICI, Guest Keen, Hawker Siddeley, Unilever and Tube Investments added 2p or 3p.

Oils were slightly higher as the OPEC conference in Bali began, dealers said.

## LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	309.00/311.00	French franc	67.10/67.50
U.K. sterling	718.60/722.90	Dutch guilder	142.90/143.80
West German mark	155.40/156.40	Swedish crown	69.50/69.90
Swiss franc	170.80/171.80	Belgium franc	96.40/97.00
Italian lire		Japanese yen	
(for every 100)	32.80/33.00	(for every 100)	148.70/149.60

## AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Name of Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low	Closing Price
Islamic Bank 50%	JD 1,000	10,580	1,820	1,810	1,810
Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	380	2,340	2,340	2,340
Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	6,260	1,700	1,690	1,690
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	1,575	2,080	2,070	2,070
Industrial Development Bank	JD 1,000	300	1,550	1,550	1,550
Cairo Amman Bank	JD 5,000	795	14,500	14,500	14,500
Arab Bank Co. Ltd.	JD 10,000	10	125,000	125,000	125,000
Arab Financial Foundation 80%	JD 10,000	120	11,340	11,340	11,340
General Insurance Co. (New)	JD 1,000	1,170	1,450	1,450	1,450
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	2,985	2,090	2,080	2,080
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	1,000	0,950	0,950	0,950
International Construction and Investments Co.	JD 1,000	1,000	0,860	0,860	0,860
Arab Development and Investments Co.	JD 2,000	4,500	1,360	1,350	1,360
Jordan Dairy Co. (New)	JD 1,000	991	1,300	1,300	1,300
General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	1,000	1,530	1,530	1,530
Arab Aluminium Industries Co.	JD 1,000	500	1,290	1,290	1,290
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	1,600	3,470	3,470	3,470
Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1,000	600	2,780	2,780	2,780
Dar Al Dawa' Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	1,100	3,660	3,660	3,660
Jordan Worsteds Mills Co.	JD 1,000	450	2,850	2,850	2,850
Jordan Glass Factories Co.	JD 1,000	793	0,840	0,830	0,830
Jordan Spinning and Weaving Co.	JD 1,000	1,050	0,700	0,690	0,690
Jordan Phosphate Mines Co.	JD 1,000	427	3,400	3,400	3,400
Jordan Lime and Silicate Bricks Industries Co.	JD 5,000	275	5,800	5,790	5,790
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Co.	JD 5,000	50	10,260	10,260	10,260
Arab Pharmaceutical Industries Co.	JD 5,000	11	28,000	28,000	28,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 5,000	2,200	9,170	9,140	9,140
Jordan Cement Factories Co.	JD 10,000	145	19,500	19,500	19,500

Total volume of shares traded on Monday, Dec. 15, 1980:

JD 102,683

Total number of shares traded: 41,687

### Government Development Bonds

Year of Maturity	Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High	Low
Cement 1989 8.5%	JD 100,000	82,000	82,000	10,000	10,000

# JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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Farmers present new challenge to party supremacy

## Soviets say Polish reforms not a threat to eastern bloc

MOSCOW, Dec. 15 (R) — The Soviet Union suggested today that it saw no threat from Poland's economic and

political reforms to the country's position within the communist bloc alliance.

But it indicated it saw a continuing danger to stability in Poland from western support for anti-communists there.

The indirect formulation of the latest Soviet view on the situation came in the presentation by the Moscow press of weekend speeches by Mr. Stanislaw Kania and Mr. Janos Kadar, the party leaders of Poland and Hungary.

Treatment of the two speeches in Moscow appeared as a further sign of Soviet desire to suggest that the Warsaw leadership had the confidence of the Kremlin in its handling of the crisis.

The Soviet party newspaper *Pravda* quoted Mr. Kania as saying: "The process of renewal in Poland will serve not only the interests of socialism in our country but also the strengthening of the friendship, cooperation and the alliance with the USSR and all the fraternal countries."

*Pravda* quoted him as telling a congress of the Polish Peasants' Party that the leadership's policy was understood by Poland's friends and allies and this had been shown by the Moscow summit of the Warsaw Pact on Dec. 5.

The report said the meeting expressed the conviction Poland would be able to overcome its present problems.

Today's *Pravda* said Mr. Kania told the peasants' congress that political forces in the West supporting the enemies of socialism in Poland were stepping up their activities.

In a report from Budapest on Mr. Kadar's speech to a congress of his country's trade unions, *Pravda* quoted him as saying that Hungary had an interest in seeing a stable socialist system in Poland because of their close economic ties.

"We want the Polish working

class, the Polish people under the leadership of the party, to find a socialist solution to those problems which in the course of time have built up in the country, have caused tension and are still there today. We want them to solve these problems themselves and ensure the further progress of Poland along the path of socialism," he said.

Mr. Kadar's expression of a wish that the Polish people might solve their problems themselves was the first such specific formulation from Eastern Europe to be reported in the Soviet press.

The Moscow summit and subsequent statements by participating states as published in *Pravda* have not used the word "themselves"—thus implicitly leaving open the possibility that Polish leaders might ask for outside assistance to put their house in good communist order.

The fact that Mr. Kadar's remarks were reported in *Pravda* suggested Soviet thinking was not at present centred on a need for any military action in Poland.

Meanwhile in Poland, militant

private farmers today threatened symbolic strike action to back demands to set up their own union despite opposition from the country's communist leadership.

Leaders of more than 500,000 private farmers said they would withhold their produce from state buyers if the authorities failed to legalise their union.

The farmers also called for broad reforms in Poland's agricultural sector where a disastrous performance in recent years has aggravated the country's economic crisis.

The establishment of a union by Poland's 3.5 million private farmers, who till more than 80 per cent of the land, would mean the emergence of another major power base outside Communist Party control.

A lower court turned down their application last month. They appealed to the supreme court which is due to make a ruling by Dec. 30.

Mr. Kania last night implicitly rejected the idea of a private farmers' union, saying that the agricultural sector did not need new structures.

## China backs NATO stance

PEKING, Dec. 15 (AP) — China's leading newspaper, praising the NATO ministers' decision to take sanctions in case of any Soviet military intervention in Poland, said today all nations must strengthen unity and take firm action to combat hegemonism.

The NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) council's decision undoubtedly is a positive measure against Soviet hegemonism, said a commentary in the Communist Party paper *People's Daily*.

"Over the last few years, the western countries have rarely taken such a united stiff stand to contain the Soviet aggressive attempt," the paper said.

"The Afghan intervention demonstrates that the Soviet hegemonists will not hesitate to use military force to achieve their own aims when they deem it necessary. Depending on entreaties and negotiations definitely cannot restrain Soviet aggression and expansion," the *People's Daily* said.

## Several Italians feared buried as quake-damaged building tumbles

NAPLES, Dec. 15 (Agencies) — About 10 people were feared buried under rubble after part of a building damaged in last month's earthquake collapsed early today, police said.

Part of the 18th century building, formerly the Royal Palace of Charles III of Bourbon, had been converted into a home for poor and old people.

Firemen managed to free three elderly people from the collapsed wing, which housed a sick-bay, refectory and dormitory.

Police said about 10 people were missing and believed to be trapped under the fallen masonry. Firemen had called in special bulldozers to remove dangerous walls before digging started.

Police said part of the building was evacuated after the Nov. 23 quake and experts were scheduled to carry out checks of the structure today.

Meanwhile, prosecutors yesterday opened preliminary criminal investigations against the priest of a parish church which crumbled after the massive November earthquake, killing 70 of the worshippers, authorities reported.

The Rev. Salvatore Pagliuca was officially notified that he is being investigated to determine whether he should be prosecuted on charges of massacre, multiple manslaughter or negligence in the collapse of the ceiling of the Santa Maria Assunta Church in the mountain-top village of Pivano, near Potenza.

More than 200 people were attending a mass celebrated by visiting priests when the church crumbled. Nearly half of the dead were children.

The development came three days after the 61-year-old priest left his parish of 36 years under

heavy police escort as angry residents screamed insults at him.

The residents, who collected more than 230 signatures calling for his expulsion, charged that the priest, who baptised most of their children, spent only part of the money raised from villagers and Italian emigrants in the United States for the restoration of the church five years ago.

They told police that if all the money had been used, the centuries-old church might have withstood the quake.

A great deal of the money reportedly was raised by the Italo-American community in Ulica, New York. But no details on the fund were made available.

A similar notice of criminal investigation was sent to Mr. Antonio Claps, a local constructor who supervised the restoration work.

Rev. Pagliuca, who was sitting in the back of the church, immediately telephoned a radio station in the nearby city of Potenza, giving the first news of a large number of quake-caused deaths.

The priest reportedly told a reporter in Potenza on Thursday that he could not understand why the residents were holding him responsible.

## Portuguese party selects new prime minister

LISBON, Dec. 15 (R) — Minister of State Francisco Pinto Balsemão, chosen by his Social Democratic Party to head a new government of the ruling right-wing coalition, set out yesterday to win the confidence of his Christian Democratic allies.

The Christian Democrats, junior partner in the ruling Democratic Alliance, issued a statement last night expressing disappointment at the designation of Mr. Pinto Balsemão to succeed the late prime minister Francisco Sa Carneiro, who died in an air crash last week.

They regard the 43-year-old lawyer and journalist as being too left-wing, but the statement said the party would participate in the next government.

Mr. Pinto Balsemão was elected Saturday by the Social Democrats' national council to succeed Mr. Sa Carneiro.

Despite reservations voiced by the party's right-wing, Mr. Pinto Balsemão becomes the new leader of the Social Democrats and the candidate they will propose to President Antonio Ramalho Eanes to form a new government.

According to the Portuguese constitution, President Eanes must formally name the prime minister.

The drive and power of Mr. Sa Carneiro welded the Democratic Alliance into a cohesive political force, but his death has opened up serious internal divisions.

Several Christian Democrat members of the outgoing administration have said they will refuse to serve under Mr. Pinto Balsemão.

These include party leader Diogo Freitas do Amaral, who was foreign minister under Mr. Sa Carneiro and now heads the caretaker government, and Trade Minister Basilio Horta, another senior party figure.

Mr. Pinto Balsemão may also have to replace right-wing ministers in his own Social Democratic Party who favoured the nomination of Interior Minister Eurico de Melo to be the next prime minister.

Mr. Pinto Balsemão said yesterday that he would have a strong administration "a government to govern for the next four years."

He said he would seek a consensus with the opposition Socialist Party on reforming the 1976 constitution, for which a two-thirds parliamentary majority is necessary.

Last night's Christian Democrat statement described constitutional reform as "a task of primordial importance in the current session of parliament."

The alliance is intent on rewriting the national charter to remove what it describes as socialist jargon, abolish the military council of the revolution, which has the power to block government bills, and open key nationalised sectors of the economy to private enterprise.

## Reconciliation keynote at Obote inauguration

KAMPALA, Dec. 15 (R) — Dr. Milton Obote was sworn in as president of Uganda today after his party was declared the winner of the country's first general elections in 18 years.

Electoral commission officials said with only six results still to come, Dr. Obote's Uganda People's Congress (UPC) had won 71 seats compared with 48 for the Democratic Party (DP) and one for the Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM).

President Obote was installed by the country's chief justice in a ceremony before the parliament buildings.

UPC sources said the president would be able to further increase his parliamentary majority by selecting 10 presidentially-nominated MPs and others to represent the armed forces.

Dr. Obote first ruled the east African state from 1962 until he was overthrown by his army commander Idi Amin in 1971.

In an emotional address after his inauguration, President Obote said: "Today we raise the banner of democracy once more and proclaim the rule of law."

Warning Ugandans that they faced great challenges, he said: "Let us be inspired by the examples of our neighbours and friends — Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia."

Dr. Obote appealed to the DP, the main opposition party, to fulfil its role as the opposition in parliament.

The DP has said that the election was not free and fair and rejected the result.

President Obote said past questions of countries who supported dictator Idi Amin, or were unfriendly to Uganda, were now forgotten. "Our policy of reconciliation shall extend to all parts of the world. The past is gone. We start a new future."

"We have started a new phase. It is going to be difficult. I shall do my level best. I ask for your assistance," he concluded.

## Gandhi assesses results of recent Brezhnev visit

NEW DELHI, Dec. 15 (R) — The Soviet Union has agreed to supply more than 23 million tonnes of oil and petroleum products to India over the next five years and to make available \$20 million rupees (about \$800 million) in credits for industrial projects, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said today.

She said Indo-Soviet relations were not directed against any third country, a remark clearly intended to reassure both Pakistan and China.

Mrs. Gandhi said that she had conveyed to Mr. Brezhnev India's concern about the Afghan crisis and told him that all interferences in the internal affairs of that country should stop in order to make possible a political solution.

Mrs. Gandhi said Mr. Brezhnev's Gulf security proposals, which he outlined in an address to members of the Indian parliament, were "constructive and worthy of careful consideration."

On Afghanistan, a major topic in her three rounds of talks with Mr. Brezhnev, Mrs. Gandhi said: "We expressed our opposition to all forms of outside interference in the internal affairs of other countries, whether through the induction of regular troops or through infiltration, and (expressed) our view that all such interference should stop in order to make possible a political solution."

She referred to "certain" great powers which were trying to increase their military presence in the Indian Ocean.

Mrs. Gandhi told parliament that Asians and Africans could ill-afford to get embroiled in what she described as an international power game.

Summing up her talks with Mr. Brezhnev, Mrs. Gandhi said: "Even though we may occasionally have different perceptions on some specific event, our friendship will prosper..."

She said the Soviet credits would be available for projects in the fields of power, coal mining and oil exploration and would be in addition to aid to India's steel industry.

In a statement to parliament on last week's visit to India by Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev, Mrs. Gandhi praised the Soviet leader as the architect of Indo-Soviet friendship.

She said the Soviet credits would be available for projects in the fields of power, coal mining and oil exploration and would be in addition to aid to India's steel industry.

In a statement to parliament on last week's visit to India by Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev, Mrs. Gandhi praised the Soviet leader as the architect of Indo-Soviet friendship.

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — Peasant agriculture, the heart of Tanzania's socialist strategy, is in deep trouble, Tanzanian officials, the World Bank and bilateral aid donors agree.

The output of export crops and staple foods has declined dramatically. Many growers are unable or unwilling to produce under the present state-controlled system.

"There's no doubt about it. The agricultural sector is not moving anywhere except backward," said Mr. Frank Ellis, a British economist.

The nation has become increasingly dependent on foreign aid and loans, which now total about \$700 million per year.

The problems include low world market prices for some commodities, low government-fixed producer prices for others, disruptions caused by a forced rural resettlement programme and waste caused by inefficient state agencies.

Proposals include reducing the scope of the National Milling Corp., the vast money-losing, state-run company that buys, grinds and sells grain and oil seed crops. The corporation owes more than \$300 million to the National Bank of Commerce, a remarkable 40 per cent of all the bank's non-government loans.

The corporation would be restricted to selling Tanzanian crops in overseas markets. Production management would be decentralised and returned to regional cooperative societies similar to those abolished in 1971.

The agricultural ministry is urging creation of more state-operated farms and large-scale enterprises. Many independent experts contend that more state bodies would only mean more losses.

Although world prices of coffee and tea have plunged, the country's difficulties cannot be blamed solely on foreign commodity markets. Tanzania's cashew nut production tumbled 61 per cent in the past 10 years, while world prices were rising 250 per cent.

Mr. Ellis and other university economists cite what they con-

sider questionable government farm policies. Prices paid by the government to producers for export crops have fallen, in real terms, by 30 per cent over the past decade. The government recently announced increases in producer prices for 15 exports and food crops beginning with the 1980-81 season.

Most significant is a 60 per cent increase for cashew growers, from 1.80 shillings (22 cents) to 3 shillings (37 cents) a kilogramme (2.2 pounds) of grade one nuts.

According to one analyst, producer prices for other exports, especially coffee and cotton, must also be substantially raised in order to stimulate production.

Production has also been hampered by the massive, compulsory resettlement between 1973-75 of 9 million peasants into planned villages of 250 to 300 or more families each. French agronomist Rene Dumont, who studied the programme's impact, concluded that many villages are too large, too far from the fields, and are leading to rapid soil depletion.

Government-owned crop authorities, which handle buying and exporting of agricultural produce, have been eating up an increasing percentage of export earnings. Many are operating at a deficit. The marketing costs of CATA, the cashew nut authority, more than quadrupled between 1973 and 1979, leaving less money for both the government and the producers.

Some crop-marketing organisations often collect produce late or not at all, and fail to pay growers.

Reports from the countryside reflect a tug-of-war between peasant producers and the government. There are sporadic accounts of peasants refusing to harvest or burning cashew trees,

Escalation increases pressure on Thatcher regime

## 23 more IRA men join Ulster prison hunger strike

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Dec. 15 (AP) — Twenty-three convicted Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas in the Maze Prison today joined a 50-

day-old hunger strike "to get by seven comrades seeking prisoner status, the British government announced."

The surprise move came as the government reported the condition of the original seven protesters was deteriorating.

The action intensified pressure on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to give in to the guerrillas demands, but the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), which administers the strife-torn province, said in a statement: "The government regrets the action taken, but...refuses to give special status to particular prisoners."

Britain rejects the IRA demand on the grounds it would give political respectability to terrorists.

An NIO spokesman said the 23 guerrillas held in three of the Maze's H-shaped cellblocks refused breakfast this morning.

All the men, like the seven who began the hunger strike on Oct. 27, were among some 500 IRA and Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) men in the Maze who have been waging cellblock protests for four years demanding

treatment as political prisoners rather than criminals because their actions were politically motivated.

The outlawed IRA and smaller INLA, almost exclusively Roman Catholic movements, are fighting to end British rule in this predominantly Protestant province.

The protesters refuse to wear prison uniforms or do prison work and smear their cells with excrement. They wear only blankets.

Three women IRA guerrillas serving long sentences in Armagh prison joined the hunger strike two weeks ago.

The hunger strike, traditionally used by the IRA to force political concessions from the British, has stirred widespread support among Northern Ireland's 500,000-strong Catholic minority.

Today's move came as the widow of a police inspector killed by one of the original seven hunger-strikers begged them to give up their fast.

Mrs. Florence Cobb husband's assassin last year term for killing Harry Cobb in February.

Mrs. Cobb, 48, the contents of the letter never wanted a life for I've told him that for them, but not for a strike. I pity because...they're coming side."

But as the coming seven deteriorated in Prison there was no planned to call off the strike.

Nutrition experts in conditions to become a week.

Official sources say security forces in the moved onto "full alert" to combat any surge of violence if a hunger strikers die.

Thousands join in silent tribute to John Lennon

## 'Imagine all the people'...

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (R) — Tens of thousands of John Lennon fans held a 10-minute silent prayer vigil in Central Park last night for the former Beatle who was murdered last Monday outside his New York home.

The mourners, muffled against the cold, began the vigil promptly at 2 p.m. (1900 GMT) as requested by Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono. She had asked for 10 minutes of silent prayer in place of a funeral service.

Fans in other cities in the United States and around the world also observed the vigil.

The vigil was held around the park band shell, opposite the apartment building where the musician and peace advocate was shot on Monday night while returning home with his wife.

In the centre of the band shell was a large photograph of Lennon wearing a T-shirt bearing the words "New York City," his adopted home. A day after the tragic slaying, Miss Ono had asked people not to blame New York for the killing. "John loved New York," she told grieving fans of the universally-admired musician.

Many of the mourners raised

their hands in a "V" peace salute. One carried a nuclear disarmament placard, another a banner showing the British and American flags.

As the prayer vigil began, many radio stations across North America ceased broadcasting, and a national television network interrupted its coverage of a football game to show, without com-

mentary, the fans in Central Park. The crowd was estimated at up to 100,000, and brought traffic in the area to a halt. Apart from those in Central Park, there were thousands who stood outside Lennon's apartment building.

The vigil ended when the voice of Lennon came over the loudspeakers singing his own song, "Imagine."

In Liverpool, the home of the

Beatles, about 200 joined in 10 minute prayer to end a six-hour tribute to Lennon.

Their feelings were by the inscription on the door of the concert Winston Lennon. R.I. lad who helped put out on the map. From fans, Doreen and Pat.

Former Beatles pro Leach told the fans: "non is not dead. What lives, he cannot possi-

Thousands of Austin early to join in the memorial gatherings early as 3 a.m. The far Melbourne where thousand fans stood

square showing the Beatles at one of their con-

West Germany, with Beatles their first in break in Hamburg, to Beatle film "Help" and paper Welt am Sonntag

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Indira Gandhi

She said the Soviet credits would be available for projects in the fields of power, coal mining and oil exploration and would be in addition to aid to India's steel industry.

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DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — Peasant agriculture, the heart of Tanzania's socialist strategy, is in deep trouble, Tanzanian officials, the World Bank and bilateral aid donors agree.

The output of export crops and staple foods has declined dramatically. Many growers are unable or unwilling to produce under the present state-controlled system.

"There's no doubt about it. The agricultural sector is not moving anywhere except backward," said Mr. Frank Ellis, a British economist.

The nation has become increasingly dependent on foreign aid and loans, which now total about \$700 million per year.

The problems include low world market prices for some commodities, low government-fixed producer prices for others, disruptions caused by a forced rural resettlement programme and waste caused by inefficient state agencies.

Proposals include reducing the scope of the National Milling Corp., the vast money-losing, state-run company that buys, grinds and sells grain and oil seed crops. The corporation owes more than \$300 million to the National Bank of Commerce, a remarkable 40 per cent of all the bank's non-government loans.

The corporation would be restricted to selling Tanzanian crops in overseas markets. Production management would be decentralised and returned to regional cooperative societies similar to those abolished in 1971.

The agricultural ministry is urging creation of more state-operated farms and large-scale enterprises. Many independent experts contend that more state bodies would only mean more losses.

Although world prices of coffee and tea have plunged, the country's difficulties cannot be blamed solely on foreign commodity markets. Tanzania's cashew nut production tumbled 61 per cent in the past 10 years, while world prices were rising 250 per cent.

Mr. Ellis and other university economists cite what they con-

sider questionable government farm policies. Prices paid by the government to producers for export crops have fallen, in real terms, by 30 per cent over the past decade. The government recently announced increases in producer prices for 15 exports and food crops beginning with the 1980-81 season.

Most significant is a 60 per cent increase for cashew growers, from 1.80 shillings (22 cents) to 3 shillings (37 cents) a kilogramme (2.2 pounds) of grade one nuts.